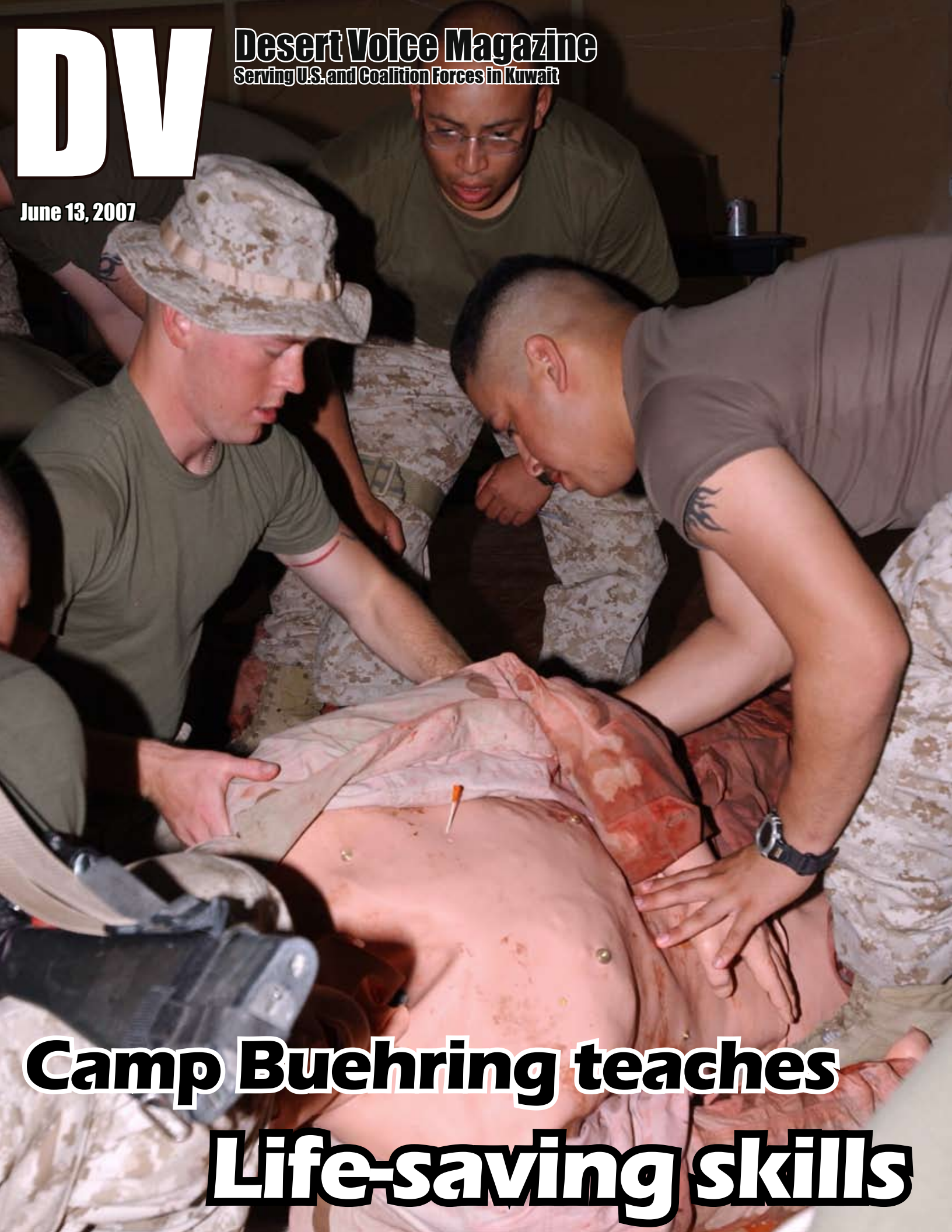


# DV

**Desert Voice Magazine**  
Serving U.S. and Coalition Forces in Kuwait

June 13, 2007



**Camp Buehring teaches  
Life-saving skills**

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**Third Army Soldier keeps his 'Dance Fever' alive even in the desert at Camp Arifjan.**

## On the cover

**Training in Buehring proves to be life-saving for Soldiers crossing the Berm.**

*Photo illustration by Spc. Jennifer McFadden*

## From the Top

### Army birthday follows a tradition of service

In 1775, the Army began a rich tradition of fighting for freedom and democracy and for 232 years, American men and women have answered their nation's call to duty. The Continental Army was populated by patriots who risked everything for the



**Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb  
Third Army Commanding General**

prospect of freedom. This group set the standard for enduring, selfless service to one's country.

The men and women of Third Army/U.S. Army Central and their Families continue the Army's tradition of service. We are the keepers of a promise that says we will be ready when duty calls, a promise that has been answered by the active, Guard, and Reserve Soldiers deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, and around the globe.

Regardless of the threat, the Army continues to meet the country's demand for safety and security wherever terrorism and intolerance exist.

As American Soldiers, we are guided by the Army values. Courage and sacrifice are the heart and soul of our Army. Our commitment to and performance of duty, as we go about our daily missions, speak volumes with respect to the character and spirit of our nation. We represent the spirit of our Army; our actions reaffirm the trust, faith and confidence placed in us.

Around the world, the presence of the United States is the face of an American Soldier. The American Soldier is the cornerstone of our Army and is entrusted with the spirit of courage and a belief in freedom. We continue the tradition of selfless service,

sacrifice and loyalty to our nation.

From the Battle of Bunker Hill to the streets of Fallujah, American Soldiers have proudly defended and protected our homeland as well as our way of life. It is under this wall of protection that American industry, ideas and values have prospered.

While our Army has adapted and evolved over the years, the strength and resilience of the American Soldier remained constant. I see this strength and resilience daily in Third Army Soldiers.

We are not the first generation of American Soldiers to encounter long, arduous deployments, but we are the generation of Soldiers that today's Americans will know. We are carrying on a time-honored tradition that is the product of 232 years of service and sacrifice and we will not fail.

Each of our camps in Kuwait will commemorate this service with its own celebration June 14. As you join in the festivities, I invite you to think about all the Soldiers who came before us and the proud tradition of service of which you are apart. Happy Birthday Army!

Patton's Own!

**DV**  
**Desert Voice**  
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# **Finance Flash**

## **Extended?**

**ATTENTION EAGLECASH CARD HOLDERS:  
HAS YOUR DEPLOYMENT BEEN EXTENDED?**

**Background: EagleCash cards have an original expiration date set to each individuals original deployment timeline. When the card expires it will not work for purchases at merchants or exchanges at a kiosk.**

**What do I have to do?**

**Personnel affected by a deployment extension (voluntary or involuntary) must have the expiration date on their EagleCash card updated by the local Army finance office as soon as possible (preferably before the original re-deployment date).**

**What happens if my EagleCash card already expired?**

**Do not dispose the expired card. Take your card to the local Army finance office where they will ensure the account is properly re-activated.**

**For more information regarding this and other finance questions, call or stop by your local Army finance office.**



# Patton's Own embrace

## During an information exchange

### Staff Sgt. Alex Licea

Third Army/U.S. Army Central  
Public Affairs

Third Army/U.S. Army Central hosted a delegation of soldiers from the Kazakhstan national army May 31 to June 1 for an information exchange at Fort Bragg, N.C.

The two-day program was part of a week-long trip in which the Kazakhstani military policemen received an inside look at how the U.S. Army operates and utilizes MP forces in today's global struggle against violence.

The exchange and lessons learned from the trip will assist the Kazakhstani army as they continue to revamp their own MP Corps.

The visit is part of the continued effort led by Third Army/USARCENT's civil-military affairs Theater Security Cooperation program that hosts foreign soldiers and sends U.S. Soldiers to participating countries in the Third Army area of responsibility to interface and exchange ideas with their counterparts.

"The TSC program allows us [Third Army] to build a lasting relationship," said Lt. Col Dave Bennett, who is assigned to the USARCENT as the Central and South Asia branch chief. "This is the only program that allows the human factor of our nations to work together making it a more personal interaction between us."

The Kazakhstan's MP Corps, which was established in 1997, is the only MP Corps in the former Soviet Union and is still establishing itself in the national army, said Bennett. It is to be a model for Central Asia. TSC events such as this can only build a foundation and willingness to work



Photos by Staff Sgt. Alex Licea

Lt. Col. Dave Bennett, Third Army/USARCENT CIMA Central and South Asia branch chief, speaks to both U.S. and Kazakhstani troops about the continued partnership of the two nations during the urban operations information exchange event, May 31. The exchange is part of the Third Army/U.S. Army Central's civil-military affairs Theater Security Cooperation program that hosts foreign soldiers and also sends U.S. Soldiers to participating countries in the USARCENT area of responsibility.

together.

"Kazakhstan participates in more TSC events than any other country in the [area of operation]," said 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Erin Pendleton, Third Army's CIMA Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan desk officer.

During this event, the Kazakhstan soldiers received an up-close look at programs such as urban MP operations, airborne refresher training, military working dogs and the special reaction team; the military equivalent of the civilian police forces' SWAT teams. All the events were coordinated by the Bragg-based 503 Military Police Battalion.

While Kazakhstan currently uses its MPs in a law enforcement capability, the hope is to continue to learn and gain experience in a more international

capacity.

"We are eager to learn all these MP capabilities and continue to work with the U.S. in building a stronger relationship," said Capt. Tleukhan Baskhozhayev, a regional chief of the military police in Kazakhstan. "We are just still really young as an MP Corps."

The seven visiting soldiers, included senior Kazakhstan officials Col. Asylbek Zhumadilov, the first deputy to the main prosecutor of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Lt. Col. Andrew Sys, military prosecutor for the Kazakhstan national army, and Maj. Bakhytzhan Mailinov, chief of the security and convoy director of Kazakhstan military police.

The Atlanta-based Third Army conducts TSC activities throughout 24 countries in the U.S. Central Command

# es former Soviet state

## ge at Fort Bragg

area of responsibility, which spans the Horn of Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. This includes enhancing or establishing relationships with regional national militaries, which promote bilateral and multilateral interoperability, strategic access and operational basing.

One such event is an exercise known as Steppe Eagle, which links the Kazakhstan army with its US counterpart, the Arizona Army National Guard, as well as units from the British forces. The exercise, the second of its kind, will take place this fall.

With these programs, Third Army helps its partner nations strengthen their defense relationships and improve their ability to effectively participate in coalition operations.

Third Army TSC events go beyond just MP operations. The program takes on many forms and conducts dozens of events in the United States or in the partnering country.

“The TSC program benefits both countries because we can work together to fight the global war on terrorism,” said Capt. Gary Katz, Third Army/USARCENT operational



**(Above)** Capt. Sean Doyne, the commander of the 65th Military Police Company, gives Kazakhstani officers a briefing about the tactical first aid medical pack during the urban operations information exchange event, May 31. **(Below)** Doyne, gives Lt. Col. Andrew Sys, senior military prosecutor for the Kazakhstan national army, and other Kazakhstani officers, a hands-on briefing about the different components of the M-4 rifle during the urban operations information exchange event, May 31.



protection operations officer. “It is all about learning from each other.”

Bennett said that Third Army’s TSC program benefits more than just the unit’s mission requirements because it spreads diplomacy and increases U.S. national security.

“This is a great way to not only meet our partners but increase U.S. national security,” he said. “We work together so we can both improve. You only see that with things like the TSC program.”

The exchange will continue until June 8 with the delegation visiting military police facilities in Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.



# Training at Camp Buehring

## Servicemembers

**Spc Wes Landrum**  
*Desert Voice staff writer*

Marines burst through the door with their weapons raised. Four of their comrades lie on the floor with various wounds. After securing the area, the wounded are attended to.

No, this was not a real life situation but situational training held at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

Training here at this desert post is as real as it can get before servicemembers cross the berm and enter Iraq or Afghanistan, said Thomas H. DeLoach, Life Cycle Project Director for Program Executive Office Simulation, Training and Instrumentation.

"We try to make it very realistic," DeLoach said. "If it's not real, you're cheating the Soldier out of skills they will need when they go north."

More than 100,000 servicemembers have used Camp Buehring's training facilities since February 2005.

DeLoach said over 90 percent of those servicemembers that come to Camp Buehring have honed their skills in three training venues – the Medical Simulation, the Improvised Explosive Device Course, and the Engagement Skills Trainer (EST).

"The Soldiers learn a great deal from these scenarios," DeLoach said. "The skills they learn here will save their lives."

The Medical Simulator, has four dummies that actually breathe and bleed on the floor, DeLoach said. Unit members are required to use their combat lifesaving skills to save the person and get them ready to be evacuated to a larger medical facility.

Hospital Corpsman Michael Ramirez, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, I Company, Weapons Platoon, stands over a group of Marines as they perform combat lifesaving techniques on a simulated wounded comrade. He said the training prepares the servicemembers for real life situations.

"PowerPoint slides are dull and boring. Plus you don't get anything out of it," Ramirez said. "Here in this room, the guys are faced with life and death situations," Ramirez said. Servicemembers who go north have to know the steps to save this person's life, he added

"It will prepare them for the time they get ambushed and someone goes down." The corpsman said. "Their training will kick in."

Mike Haight, a contractor working in the Medical Simulator, said the scenarios the teams face are mirrored after real-life problems he faced while working as an emergency room technician at Forward Operating Base Salerno in Afghanistan in 2003. He said one has to adapt and overcome all obstacles to get the mission done.



*Photo by Spc. Wes Landrum*

Marines work on an amputee victim to stop his bleeding. This real-life simulation training conducted at Camp Buehring, Kuwait helps servicemembers prepare for the crossover into combat.

"We make it as hard as we can," Haight said. "We try to confuse them and rattle them. We make it loud so they can't think. We give them things like an enemy counterattack to catch them off guard."

While Camp Buehring gets servicemembers ready for what lies

# ring proves life saving polish skills before crossing the berm.



The Improvised Explosive Device Course is just one of the many tools used to prepare USARCENT warriors for combat conditions. DeLoach said that while it is not mandatory, units can use the skills for refresher training before crossing the berm.

across the berm, it has come a long way in developing the training resources available now.

"I came up here in 2003 with 3rd Infantry Division as a contractor and there was nothing here," DeLoach said spreading his arms across the camp. "I got together with PEO STRI and we built the buildings that you see today." While he did not quote an exact price, DeLoach said both PEO STRI and U.S. Army funds were used in the construction.

"We felt the people that were here needed something besides tents to sleep in and MREs to eat," DeLoach said.

"Over time, we have been able to add things like the mobile MOUT site and the Medical Simulator."

DeLoach said the building is not about to stop, either.

"We have several projects that we are about to start work on," he said. "We want to do everything in our power to make the servicemen and women who come through here as comfortable and aware as we can."

Haight said there's one project that he wants to see come to fruition.

"We want to build a bigger building and add a Humvee to the Medical Simulator," He said. "We want to simulate an IED attack and have the



Photo by Pvt. Christopher Grammer

A British soldier takes up a position near a building in the Military Operations in Urban Terrain village at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The site is used by U.S. and international forces to refresh training prior to crossing into other countries.

servicemembers go through the same training they are getting here."

DeLoach said the servicemembers learn a lot from the training and some have had to use that training in real-life scenarios. DeLoach recalls an email he received from a physician's assistant earlier this year.

"In this email, the PA said the Soldier who got hit was bad off. It looked like

he might not make it. The two attending Soldiers were only combat-lifesaver qualified," DeLoach said. "But they did such a great job that when the Soldier was transported, not only was he awake and alert, he was talking and joking with us.

"That's why we do this training, so people can come home alive," DeLoach added.



# 377th Theater Support Command



**Capt. Mike Wallace**

377th Theater Support Command  
Public Affairs

The 377<sup>th</sup> Theater Support command (TSC) is turning over command of theater support operations to the 1<sup>st</sup> TSC this summer. In the past five consecutive years of conducting the logistical missions in Southwest Asia, the 377<sup>th</sup> TSC has made history by surpassing any other logistics operation in history in support of Third Army/U.S. Army Central mission.

History remembers the massive convoy effort named the Red Ball Express during World War II. The Red Ball Express was the name given to World War II's most extensive logistics operation—a massive convoy effort to supply the Allied armies moving through Europe—a fleet of over 6,000 trucks and trailers that delivered over 412,000 tons of ammunition, food, and fuel to the Allied armies in the European Theater of Operations between August 25 and November 16, 1944. It was an important factor in the rapid defeat of the German army, filling the needs of each

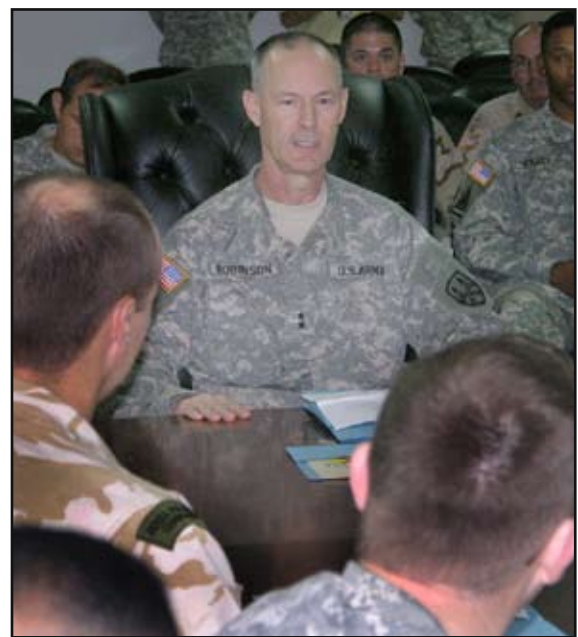
division that ordinarily required 700-750 tons a day, a total daily consumption of about 20,000 tons.

Major General Thomas D. Robinson, the Commanding General of the 377<sup>th</sup> TSC points out the distinct correlation between the Red Ball Express and what the 377<sup>th</sup> TSC has accomplished in theater.

“First, we have moved massive amounts of supplies—to include food, fuel, ammunition, equipment, vehicles and personnel,” said Robinson.

“This level of logistical support, for the length of time it has been in progress, has never been accomplished before,” he said. “Our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guard members have done an exemplary job at providing support—exceeding all demands that their country has asked of them.”

A short list of the numbers that were attained in just the last year will impress anyone familiar with logistics. More than 4,000 convoys and 75,000 bus missions were



*Photos by Spc. Mike Wallace*

Maj. Gen. Thomas D. Robinson discusses issues with Coalition members of Iraqi Freedom. The 377th TSC is also responsible for training and assisting in the needs of all Coalition forces entering theater.

completed, carrying cargo and containers and personnel. The Lines of Communication (LOC) extended more than 1,3000 miles round trip from Camp Arifjan to the farthest FOB in the Mosul region, consisting of an astounding 50 million miles to



# and makes history in logistics



The 377th TSC also managed Navy customs. Customs checks a vehicle being sent back to the United States to ensure that no agricultural pathogens are present.

move 57 brigade sized units and to deliver and pick up supplies at over 25 forward operating bases.

But there's more. The 377th TSC was responsible for movement of more than 36,000 containers, 80,000 pieces of equipment and 50,000 vehicles, trailers, tracked and winged vehicles that were unloaded or loaded. The 377th TSC handled 65,000 pieces of cargo, supported nearly 60 ocean-vessel missions (deploy/redeploy), and assisted with more than 40 visiting cargo vessels carrying 45,000 pieces of heavy equipment and 400,000 tons of cargo.

During the last year, they have streamlined operations in conducting convoys, container management, building engineering projects, handling equipment and personnel. The 377th TSC has saved nearly \$1 billion since last year.

Colonel Sam Pearson, the Director for the Distribution Management Center, says that this goal was met through better management and tracking of equipment and repair

parts in theater.

"It is through Soldier involvement with the distribution process from the vendor to the Soldier in the fox hole—re-engineering established procedures and proving them highly effective," said Pearson. "The 377th TSC has accomplished its assigned missions without an increase to its budget."

This is important, as the 377th TSC has had to manage 25 percent more military personnel, equipment and movement of supplies than any of the previous years.

"Our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guard members, and civilians, have accomplished

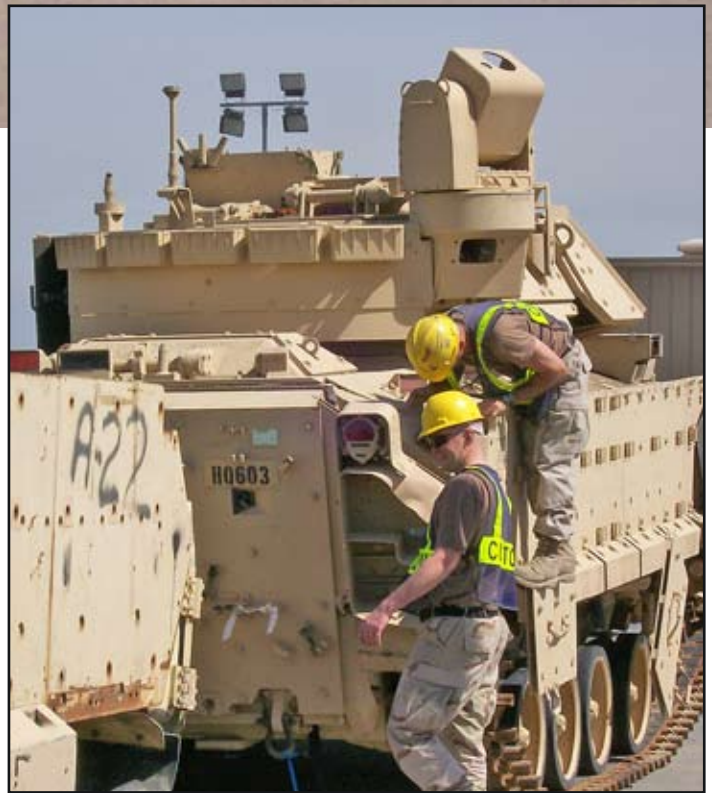


Photo illustration by Spc. Mike Wallace

(Above) The 377th TSC also managed Navy customs. Customs checks a vehicle being sent back to the United States to ensure that no agricultural pathogens are present.

an enormous task for an extended time," said Robinson. "They have displayed great persistence, dedication and willingness to find a way to accomplish the mission everyday—reflecting our motto of 'Can Do, Any Time, Any Where'!"

# Chief Warrant Officer can't sha

## Third Army Soldier out dances comp

**USMC Staff Sgt. Houston F. White Jr.**  
*Desert Voice staff writer*

While military personnel deployed to the scorching climates of the Middle East continuously receive training designed to prevent heat-related injuries, it seems that no amount of safety guidance can stop one member of Third Army/USARCENT from catching a permanent case of "dance fever."

Since the day he took his first steps onto the dance floor of a church function at the tender age of 11, Chief Warrant Officer Don E. Kolesar, property book officer, USARCENT, Special Troops Battalion, has used dancing as everything from a stress reliever to a form of physical training.

"Dancing is my PT and exercise," smiled the 54-year-old, who has reaped the benefits of increased leg strength and stamina by finishing first in his age group consistently in various distance running/walking events while deployed. "It allows me to enjoy the thrill of youth and keeps me in good shape. I've been able to drop 30 pounds dancing so far on this deployment and for that I thank all the ladies I have danced with for being great partners."

"Nothing bothers me around here [Kuwait] because dancing makes me happy and eliminates all my stress," he added. "I'm actually enjoying my current assignment because of it."

Developing a deep passion for the art form from his wife Sylvia, the "Dancing Chief" as he is known to many of the personnel at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, has built a following of admirers due in part to the energy and style he displays each time he steps onto the dance floor.

"I've worked with him for the past few months and what strikes me the most about him is that he dances with such a fever or passion," mentioned Chief Warrent Officer Ida Tyree-Hyche, human

resources officer, USARCENT, STB.

"He really puts himself into the dance and doesn't stay 'inside the box' because of his passion."

"His dancing reminds me of *The Great Gatsby* or something from the Jazz Age," added the Birmingham, Ala., native, who assisted Kolesar in choreographing an electrifying routine for a recent salsa dance competition that drew a standing ovation from the audience.

"I knew that he was very passionate about Latin-American

dancing because he always plays his music at work and he told stories about dancing in clubs with his wife," remarked Charleston, S.C., native Staff Sgt. Natacha M. Rueda, security management noncommissioned officer, USARCENT, STB. "It's crazy because when I look at him I see a sweet old man like my grandpa, but when he starts dancing he turns into an energetic, youthful, charismatic person."

Not surprisingly, Kolesar lists his bride of 36 years as the paramount reason for his love of dancing and music.

"My wife was born in Mexico and when we met she was one of the most fabulous tejano [a cross between salsa and western style] dancers I had ever seen," Kolesar remarked. Whenever I danced with her I noticed nothing else. Her smile and her moves were like an angel on the [dance] floor and even today when I see Latin ladies dancing it reminds me of her."

With decades of dancing experience

under his belt, Kolesar, a native of Victoria, Texas, has developed the unique ability to get his groove on to virtually any music under the sun, including hip-hop and "old school" rhythm and blues.

"I've been dancing for more than 40 years," he said. "During that time I've been through the John Travolta era with disco music, the Willie Nelson era with country music and I also dance to Spanish music like tejano and salsa. Over time my tastes in music have grown to



*Photo by Staff Sgt. Houston F. White*

Onlookers give Chief Warrant Officer 3 Don E. Kolesar, property book officer, USARCENT, Special Troops Battalion, and his partner Capt. Racine Robertson, adjutant, STB, a standing ovation at the conclusion of their electrifying performance during a salsa competition at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

the point that now I can pretty much dance to anything with a beat that I can feel."

According to Kolesar, dancing has also been a great way in general to meet and



# Like "Dance Fever"

## etition



Photo by Staff Sgt. Houston F. White

Following the salsa dance competition at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Chief Warrant Officer Don E. Kolesar (right), property book officer, USARCENT, Special Troops Battalion, continues to groove with one of the many dance partners he has befriended during his deployment in support of Third Army.

build friendships with many people of diverse backgrounds.

"Music is the universal language that crosses all boundaries and races," he said. "I dance four times each week at the various music nights and have made friends at every one of them."



## Hometown Hero

**Petty Officer Third Class  
Donna Marie Low**  
U.S. Navy Customs Battalion

Wright is an administration specialist for the U.S. Navy Customs Battalion in Kuwait.

Wright says why she misses her home, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

"The quaint atmosphere of the town and shopping. Anything you want is at your fingertips."

## Just One Question...

**"What is your best  
Father's Day memory?"**



**"Going out and fishing with my dad."**

Spc. Joshua D. Crawford  
Guin, ALa.  
Light-Wheel Vehicle Mechanic  
186th Engineering Company  
Buehring-Kuwait



**"When my father took me to  
Six Flags Great America"**

Staff Sgt. Lyman Roddy  
Chicago, Ill.  
Vehicle Maintenance  
70th Medium Truck Detachment  
Arifjan, Kuwait



**"When I went to a San Diego  
Padres game with my dad"**

Petty Officer 3rd Class Kevin Nelson  
Corpus Christi, Texas  
Master at Arms.  
B 142nd Field Artillery  
Arifjan, Kuwait



**"When fathers day was on  
my dad's birthday and we  
took him to Red Lobster"**

Maj. Stephen F. Venson  
Saint Thomas, Va.  
Human Resources Manager  
USAEURA  
Arifjan, Kuwait



**"I gave my father an ugly tie  
when I was little but he was  
still proud of it."**

Sgt. Maj. Ray E. Harris  
Canton, Miss.  
335th Theater Support Command  
Arifjan, Kuwait

# The 232nd United States ARMY BIRTHDAY



## 2007 Army Birthday Message

Meeting in Philadelphia 232 years ago, the Second Continental Congress created the United States Army. A short thirteen months later, this same Congress drafted and signed the Declaration of Independence. It was clear to our founding fathers that security, especially security guaranteed by a strong and capable Army, was a precondition for successful democracy and freedom.

Like that extraordinary time in America's fledgling democratic history, this remains true today. The Army's role in securing freedom remains paramount.

As we proudly celebrate the United States Army's 232nd Birthday on 14 June 2007, and do so in the midst of a long and challenging war, it is useful to remind ourselves that the Army has always existed to field forces for victory.


From the Battle of Yorktown to Belleau Wood, from D-Day to the Chosin Reservoir, from Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan, Soldiers have demonstrated unmatched courage, dedication, and willingness to sacrifice to accomplish any mission. They have served our country with incredible honor and distinction. They understood, as few others have, that our Constitution and the freedom it guarantees are worth fighting for. They have sacrificed their personal comfort and safety to answer a higher calling--service in the cause of freedom, both at home and abroad.

Today's Soldiers symbolize the nobility of selfless service. Today's Soldiers are motivated by an unwavering belief that they will be victorious on the field of battle, because we have fought this way since 1775 and always will. Today's Soldiers are imbued with the Army Values and live the Warrior Ethos:

- I will always place the mission first.
- I will never accept defeat.
- I will never quit.
- I will never leave a fallen comrade.

While the Army has much work ahead of us, it has much to be proud of and to celebrate. God bless each and every one of you and your families, and God bless America. Army Strong!

  
Kenneth O. Preston  
Sergeant Major of the Army

  
George W. Casey, Jr.  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff

  
Pete Geren  
Acting Secretary of the Army